

From: John R. Diedrichs
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 5:05am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The proposed settlement is a TURKEY!

If the government really wants to end Microsoft's monopoly, why doesn't it simply stop accepting correspondence in Microsoft's "secret" proprietary file formats?

If the US government simply declared that it will no longer accept any email attachments in .DOC, .XLS, or .PPT format, people would learn very quickly how to use the "Save As" function. The chief barrier to the adoption of alternative software (ie: compatibility) would be removed, and the monopoly would crumble quite rapidly.

In short, the US/DOJ are being hypocritical, if not duplicitous! How can you claim to be "fighting" this monopoly while you simultaneously REINFORCE it by your use of Microsoft file formats for data storage and communication?!

Don't the terms "transparency in government" or "freedom of information" mean anything? The term "Microsoft Tax" becomes much more than a metaphore when government documents are stored and transmitted in proprietary formats!

<http://www.osopinion.com/Opinions/JohnDiedrichs/JohnDiedrichs1.html>

Please scrap this so-called "settlement" and DO THE RIGHT THING!

Sincerely,

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